

Dear George, Susie, Krish,

In all of the years that I have been interacting with society as a whole and the vastly different people that can be encountered while going about everyday life, not one problem have I more encountered than that of establishing a real connection in understanding and communicating effectively with someone of a different mind than myself. In this world we are all supposed to be unique of course, but at the same time, assuming we have all lived a similar sum of experiences, thought through each our own problems in similar ways, and established like norms for communication, should the task of gaining insight into another's motives for their actions be something trivial. I have tried to work through it many times with friends of mine, and while even having known each other for years still I find having to deliberately and concisely relate an experience of my past them in an effort of providing a contextual understanding I thought to be an already shared experience. Similarly, I say to them, what is the reason we cannot realize this difference? We let this misunderstanding, an error in communicating our speech create chaos between us, and now there is a distasteful feeling about this topic one of us has innocently brought up. If this has happened to us, whoever is reading this letter, then I sincerely apologize for any frustrations I caused. Frustrations over something I did in your presence, frustrations over an idea I thought would be fine, frustrations from words I said to you but never meant that way. I hope that in such a situation I might have been able to catch this blip in communication, but social empathy is something I'm still figuring out myself.

Understanding we think differently to each other sometimes seems like an insurmountable task sometimes. For example, in a social setting between a group of long time friends, those who have been through many times together, from going through elementary while young, finding ways and time to stay together during Covid, to staying



in contact after parting ways and leaving off to different parts of the country for higher education, some may generally accept the optimistic and relaxed nature of participating in games. For a few others and me an argument is nothing more than both of us sharing our ideas with enthusiasm. Unexpected are the heated responses and targeted attacks against the self when observing and sharing an idea that the other person disagrees with. We have known each other for such a time now, surely you understand that these thoughts come from a place of respect, and genuine curiosity about your opinion and why you stand by it. My difference of opinion, confusion or surprise at a topic doesn't imply a disagreement or express that I invalidate your thoughts and ideas. Why would it? Such a concept was never explicitly said in our conversing with each other, but often we encounter such occurrences in our conversations, something I dread happening each and every time it does happen. Despite the tense moments I have had with many different people, if I am still with them today I only feel glad that I can argue and enjoy times with them still and such is the nature of understanding a person outside of small moments of misunderstanding.



Coolee Bravo
@BravoCoolee

Twitter the only place where well articulated sentences still get misinterpreted.

You can say "I like pancakes" and somebody will say "So you hate waffles?"

No bitch. Dats a whole new sentence. Wtf is you talkin about.

1:34 pm · 23 Oct 17

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Sir Bravo of Coolee
@SirBravoCoolee

This realm be the only land
where refined rhetoric gets
misinterpreted
You may proclaim "I enjoy bread"
and a peer will respond "So doth
hates potatoes?"
Nay cur. That is a whole new
thought. What in the Lord's name
art thou talking about

This leads me to another question, why should and why do we set into a social norm or way interpreting conversations? Not in a sense where I don't understand why but don't understand why the opposite cannot also be as easily accepted as something a person can be defined by. Much emphasis is put on respect with interpersonal relationships, and even more on how

people show that respect to the other person the relationship. What you must know is that expressing this respect verbally through direct communication isn't just as simple as directly stating it. In the course of a day many different conversations happen about so many different things that it may be natural that certain statements are seen as coming of brash or with a lack of consideration. Yet in some instances it hasn't been that way. Gaining an understanding of the context behind someone's actions become so important in such a situation and is key to contextualizing their actions. We are all different in that way. For a majority of people, it may seem that the way to express a mutual respect is to talk in a restricted tone or manner and hold back meaning behind words or statements. Settling for the less direct way forward and sacrificing efficiency in your actions and words. On occasion however I haven't seen the use in such a convention when speaking. Why lengthen your words to further appease and get around the tough feeling that comes with criticizing or dealing with minor conflicts. Does such an idea represent the meaning of being understanding and empathetic? On the other hand, is the pursuit of finding compromise or confronting a situation with the barest of feelings, intentions, and language, while still being civil of course, not a show of respect for all involved. I have never understood this because, to a person such as myself I only say what I mean to say, and what I don't say is never meant to be in the conversation or up for interpretation unlike what may be thought about when conversations end.

Always Your Friend,

Chili